

# RALTEGRAVIR

Isentress®  
Tablets 400 mg

## ● How does this medication work?

Raltegravir is an antiretroviral which inhibit replication of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It belongs to a group of medicines called integrase inhibitors.

Isentress is used as soon as possible following exposure to HIV to prevent the virus from spreading through your system and therefore help fight infection.

## ● How should I take this medication?

One tablet twice daily every 12 hours. Take Isentress with or without food.

It is important to take Isentress regularly, at the same time every day, and to follow your schedule of administration as precisely as possible.

Never stop your medication without first talking to your doctor.

## ● I missed a dose!

If less than 6 hours after of your missed dose: Take the missed dose as soon as soon as possible and take the next dose at the usual time.

If more than 6 hours after your missed dose: Skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time.

**Do not double up dose.**

## ● What are the adverse effects of this medication?

Isentress is usually well tolerated.

Headaches, muscle pains, fatigue and sometimes gastrointestinal effects may be observed in some people. If these appear and persist, talk to your pharmacist, nurse, doctor or dietician in order to find solutions to better cope with them.

## ● Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant, trying to become pregnant or breastfeeding, tell your doctor before taking Isentress.

## ● Can I take Isentress® with other medication?

### **Antacids (Maalox, Gaviscon):**

It is not recommended to take antacids containing aluminum and magnesium with Isentress. Prefer alternatives such as ranitidine (Zantac) or proton pump inhibitors such as omeprazole (Losec).

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking new prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, natural health products or even recreational drugs.

## ● Can I drink alcohol with Isentress®?

Avoid excessive or regular alcohol consumption (beer, wine and spirits), which can increase the risk of hepatitis (liver inflammation) or interact with some of your medication. However, avoid "skipping" a dose because you wish to have a drink. Unless instructed by your doctor, a reasonable alcohol consumption (2 glasses a day) or an occasional consumption shouldn't interfere with your treatment.

## ● To avoid the transmission of the infection in the 3 months following exposure to the virus:

Avoid all sexual contact or use condoms.

Avoid getting pregnant, do not breastfeed, do not donate blood, plasma, organs, tissue or sperm.

Avoid sharing toothbrushes or razors.

Do not share syringes.

## ● Storage

Store Isentress tablets in a dry place at room temperature (15°-30°C or 59°- 86°F).

Keep out of sight and out of the reach of children.

## ● General advice

Keep up with your appointments with your doctor and your health care team so they can keep a close check on your health.